

REPORT FOR 1908.

ST. AUSTELL,

January, 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ST. AUSTELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Each succeeding year the Local Government Board requires a report of the Sanitary condition of the district, the work that has been accomplished, and what remains undone, and any causes affecting the general health of the district. Although one cannot expect in a small district like yours, work of any great magnitude, still a great deal of useful work has been carried out and some important matters are having attention. The drinking water ought to have the first consideration in every district, as no community can be healthy without pure water. The Council have spent a great deal of time and taken a lot of trouble about getting a further supply for the town in this district. The difficulties are great and numerous owing to the clay industry, but I have no doubt in due time these difficulties will be overcome.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Several cases were notified during the year, Diphtheria one, Erysipelas one, and five of Scarlet Fever. The latter was evidently imported on each occasion, but owing to early intimation the disease did not further spread. This is the third successive year there has been no fatality from the notifiable diseases.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Whooping Cough is the only disease that caused any deaths. This disease was prevalent in the commencement of the year, and continued during the winter months. It proved fatal in eight instances; five in the town, and three in the Workhouse; mostly in weakly children. There were three under one year of age, and five between one year and five years.

During the past year a great many improvements have been made. The public thoroughfares, where practicable, have been widened, new footways laid, and old ones repaired. Several improvements have been made in the water supply at Blowing House Hill, and Eastbourne Road. Old pipes have been taken up and cleaned, and where required, new ones laid.

The Drainage has been improved and extended at Pond-dhu Road, where a new stoneware pipe was laid with the necessary manholes. A new sewer was laid at Gummow's Row, and the water closets in that neighbourhood were connected to it.

Several nuisances were abated. The cases of Overcrowding were few, and most difficult to deal with, owing to the poor class of people not being able to pay more rent. The cases that came under my notice had attention. Some of them lessened the number of inmates, others left the district. The Dairies and Cow Sheds have been visited and reported on. On the whole there is an improvement, but still the cow-keepers in some instances do not see the benefit and importance of ventilation and drainage.

There are no Slaughter Houses in the District at present.

The Bakehouses have been visited and found satisfactory, being regularly whitewashed and cleansed.

The Scavenging has been carried out satisfactorily by the Council's employees. The situation of the Refuse Depot, not being near any dwelling-houses, and some distance from the District, has answered very well, there being no complaints during the year.

The Factory and Workshop Act has had my attention. Several places have been visited and inspected, and I have seen that the regulations have been carried out. There is a great improvement in them. They are all supplied with the necessary accommodation, and regularly limewashed. As far as I can ascertain, there are no out-workers in the District. We have asked to be supplied with lists according to the Act, but have received none.

The Urinals that are intended to be erected at Market Hill are still under consideration, and will have attention during the present year, and will prove a great boon to the public.

The Sanitary Work of the District has been progressing steadily and I hope to see other improvements carried out. I am pleased to say that your authority has been always ready to carry out any sanitary improvement for the good of the District.

The Pig Market is still held in the same place, but I should be pleased to see it removed to a more suitable place.

There is only one Registered Lodging House in the District, most of the tramps finding their way to the Union.

I now append the Birth and Death Rate since 1880.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Death Rate Omitting the Union.
1880	33·1	22	16·4
1881	26·6	18·1	10·9
1882	23·7	25·9	19
1883	26·2	24·2	17·8
1884	30·9	18·7	12·6
1885	27·07	27·3	21·6
1886	24·2	23·4	13·2
1887	25·1	25·9	19·8
1888	22·8	18·4	12·6
1889	23·4	15·6	11·8
1890	19·2	24·6	18·4
1891	25·3	22·1	15·7
1892	23·8	20·1	16
1893	26·7	23·8	18·4
1894	28·6	20·1	13·9
1895	25·02	18·9	13
1896	23·8	16·6	11
1897	22·1	16·6	11·3
1898	20·9	23·2	17·5
1899	27·3	27·03	20·8
1900	19·5	22·1	17·3
1901	18·5	21·2	11·5
1902	26·3	16·07	11·5
1903	19·4	17·3	12·8
1904	18·8	20·6	15
1905	20	16·7	11·2
1906	21·8	20·3	14·7
1907	23·6	26·9	17·2
1908	25·7	18·5	12·5

You will see that the Birth-rate is more than the previous year and above the averages for the past ten years. The Death-rate is considerably less than the previous year and below the average for the past ten years.

Table II gives the Birth and Death-rates separate ; the Birth-rate being 22·1 and the Death-rate 12·5. The Births are more than the average for the the past ten years, and the Death-rate is less. The Deaths in young children are more, nineteen to nine.

Table III gives the number of cases notified, which were the same as the previous year.

Table IV gives the Mortality from all diseases and at different ages. The Infectious diseases have already been referred to. Phthisis caused five deaths, against six for the previous years ; other Tubercular diseases six against three,



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seven occurring in the Town, and four in the Workhouse. The mortality from this dreadful disease I am afraid shews no abatement. Bronchitis shews a decrease from thirteen to five Heart disease also shews a decrease from fourteen to ten.

Table V shews the Infant mortality, which is more than the previous one, and above the average, there being twenty-one fatal cases in children under one year, two of which occurred in the Union Workhouse.

Table VI refers to the Factories, Workshops and Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework, a copy of which is sent to the Home Secretary.

There is also a return and report sent on to the County Council for their perusal, and a form of their own regularly filled in.

The District at present is free from any infectious or contagious diseases, but at Mount Charles, adjoining the Town, measles are very prevalent.

The Health of the District during the past year has been very satisfactory. The death-rate is not the lowest, still for a small district I consider it very satisfactory ; 10·9 being the lowest it has reached for the past twenty-nine years. This last year it was 12·5. On the whole the climate is very equable here, and much milder than other parts of England. With a little more enterprise there is no reason why it should not become a health resort, as climate and scenery are the great factors that make a place attractive.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,
M.O.H.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for 1908.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ST. AUSTELL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1908, and a summary of Sanitary work carried out for the past year.

The Sanitation of the district is most satisfactory.

In connection with house to house inspection and other nuisances, reports have been given monthly.

Under the head of offensive trades no complaint was received.

The request for the examination of premises and drains were not numerous. In two cases I found the drains most defective ; but the work required to remedy the faults were immediately carried out in each case.

No inlet to any drain is allowed within the house, pipes from baths are made to discharge a short distance from the gulley traps, and all drains under houses are being embedded in concrete and ventilated.

There are no Slaughter Houses in the district.

The Bakehouses have all been inspected, and I have no complaint to make thereon.

Scavenging has been carried out most satisfactorily and no complaint received.

There are no Ice Cream Manufacturers in the district.

The Medical Officer and myself periodically inspected the Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds. The Dairies and Milkshops were clean and improvements made.

The condition of the Cowsheds was not up to the standard. The Cow-keepers still seem regardless of ventilation, lighting, and air space.

Summary of Sanitary Work for the Year ending December 31st, 1908.

Accumulation of offensive matters removed	....	....	5
Drains cleaned and repaired	....	....	12
Closets and Privies cleaned	....	....	6
Water Closets erected	....	....	0
New Drains connected	....	....	3
Water Closets furnished with new apparatus	....	....	9
Drains tested with Smoke Machine	....	....	12
Sanitary Inspection by Request	....	....	3
,, ,, of Schools	....	....	4
,, ,, of Railway Urinals	....	....	4
Houses Fumigated	...	....	1
Houses Limewashed and Cleaned	...	....	1
Pigs removed	....	....	3
Cess Pits removed	...	....	0
Overcrowding case abated	....	....	1
Notices served to Remedy Sanitary Defects	....	....	2
Smoke Nuisance	....	....	0
Offensive Trades	...	....	0
Legal Proceedings	....	....	0
Reports to Council	....	....	11

The usual inspection of Bakehouses, Common Lodging Houses, Milkshops, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Workshops, was made, and when required, limewashing and other cleaning carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S A M B L E .

